

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
HELD
MAY 17, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary D. Burns, M.D.
Donald E. Cole
Deirdre O'Brien
Susan Radovich
Sandra A. Morris
Terry E. Langley
William McDonald, M.D.
Frank E. Shelp, Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Justin D. Neal

Mary Burns, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING

A Motion was made by Donald Cole and seconded by Deirdre O'Brien to approve the Minutes of March 31, 2010. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

UPDATE AND PRESENTATION

Donald Cole announced that Justin Neal was absent due to the birth of his baby. Mr. Cole introduced John Fuchko who gave a presentation on "Audit and Compliance". Mr. Fuchko is the Chief Audit Officer at the University of Georgia. His agenda included "what is an internal audit, why maintain an internal audit function and how is the University System of Georgia implementing internal audits?"

Commissioner Shelp introduced Mark Baker, the new Director of Advocacy for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Mr. Baker stated he is committed to being involved in the community and was pleased to be on board.

Consuelo Campbell gave the final report on legislation for the 2010 session. The following updates on critical bills were given:

- SB 391 – This bill allows DBH to serve children and adolescents who are under behavioral health care for forensic services in a secured community based facility.
- HB 1324 combined and passed as SB 244. This bill provides for additional members of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council; to revise a provision relating to the duties and functions of regional planning boards; and for other matters.
- HB 1040 – Georgia Registered Nurse Practice Act.
- SB 308 – Psychiatric hospitals are added as prohibited places where concealed weapons cannot be carried.
- HR 1713 – A resolution requesting that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Human Services submit to the General Assembly a multi-year comprehensive plan for creating a system of supports for home and community-based services that support independent living of Georgians with disabilities; and for other purposes.

Several agencies are administratively attached to DBH. One is the Sexual Offense Registry Review Board. HB 571 was passed and it allows for the Review Board to remain with DBHDD. It also increases the number of cases to be leveled by that board.

Title 37 Code: Some portions of this Code needs to be rewritten and will take the work of many people coming together to have a critical look and make sure the code meet the needs of all stakeholders. The department will begin the rewriting of the Code this summer.

- SB 391 – Provides for certain children found incompetent to stand trial; relating to proceedings upon plea of mental incompetency to stand trial but would allow DBH to serve this population in a secured residential facility in the community. This bill did not pass but will be presented to the legislature again next year.

Consuelo Campbell noted that the Department took a \$500,000 cut in its administrative budget.

APPROVAL OF FINANCE AND AUDIT CHARTER

The Finance and Audit Charter was delayed until the next Board meeting in July due to Justin Neal's absence.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT

Donald Cole reported that the DD Waiver Committee and Advisory Group met on May 17, 2010. The Advisory group has done a fantastic job over the last few months. The Group began by looking at the goals of the waiver process. There has been some discussion on the SIS. Effective July 1, 2010, there will be a change in policy where the SIS will be done the first two years the participant receives waiver services and on their 16th and 22nd birthday unless there is a change. Another issue is the PA (payment authorization). At the present time it is done twice a year, individual birthday and on the fiscal year. The group is trying to get this changed due to the amount of paperwork involved.

Dr. Burns reported that the Physician Credentials Committee met and approved two (2) physician applications for the state hospital.

REGIONAL REALIGNMENT PROPOSAL

Dr. Frank Shelp introduced the current Regional Coordinators: Earnestine Pittman, Ken Brandon, Carla Brown, Charles Fetner and Charles Ringling. Charles Fetner and Charles Ringling were tasked by Dr. Shelp to pull together information on the rearrangement to address the current regions with an eye toward making them truly functional and to address many of the complaints and issues received. They both spearheaded an investigation and took the details and engaged a number of people to assist in the realignment.

Dr. Shelp requested Charles Ringling give the presentation for regional realignment. Dr. Shelp noted that a wide spectrum of leadership in the community took an active part in the regional alignment.

Mr. Ringling stated that the design parameters for realignment of DBH include the following:

- One hospital per region;
- Boundaries to make sense geographically;
- Boundaries the same for all disability groups;
- No break in any CSB service area;
- Each CSB to interface with only one hospital and one regional office.
- Fit new agency priorities now and in the future.

Mr. Ringling noted that the processes used to realign the regions are as follows:

- Established a core team to develop regional proposal;
- Defined criteria to be used;
- Involved the following for review, feedback and agreement; regional hospital administrators, CSB association leadership, regional coordinators, regional leadership council representatives, regional planning board members and the DBHDD board of directors.

Terry Langley expressed his concerns that the Sheriffs of the counties were not involved in the realignment process and community-based services. He stated that since their departments are responsible for a great deal of transporting and housing of mental patients they should have been present when the realignment was done.

Sandra Morris inquired as to the cost of the extra region. Pat Miller responded that it would cost about \$366,000 out of DBH administrative budget.

A Motion was made by Donald Cole to approve the Regional Realignment Map and seconded by Susan Radovich. The Motion was approved with Terry Langley and Sandra Morris voting in opposition.

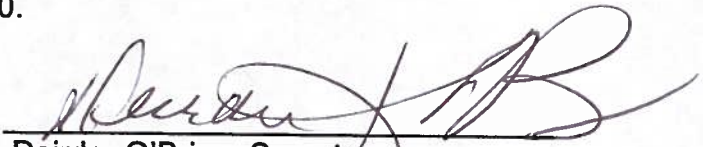

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Shelp reported on the ongoing negotiations with the Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ is at the table with the Bazelon Center and the Georgia Advocacy Office representing a number of advocacy groups. It is a challenge to have one law group representing multiple parties, whether that emphasis is maintained or adequately represented at the table is a question each group should have. He is hoping for some kind of conclusion soon. We are all in agreement that a better service across the board is needed.

Motion was made by Susan Radovich to adjourn and seconded by Sandra Morris. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is scheduled for July 19, 2010.


Deirdre O'Brien, Secretary
Mary D. Burns, Chair